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and M. de Meyendorff's account is well suited to encourage further expectations, considering the enlightened and liberal policy of the Russian government in promoting researches for that object.

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ART. IV.—*Sketches of a Tour to the Lakes, of the Character and Customs of the Chippeway Indians, and of Incidents connected with the Treaty of Fond du Lac.* By THOMAS L. M'KENNEY, of the Indian Department, and Joint Commissioner with his Excellency Governor Cass, in negotiating the Treaty. Baltimore. F. Lucas. 8vo.

IF we are not mistaken, Carver, who made a tour through the region of the lakes more than sixty years ago, begins his journal at Detroit; and states, as a reason why he passes over all his previous notes, that they relate to a part of the country already too well known to justify any remark. If such forbearance were proper at that early period, it would appear to be so now in a much greater degree. It would be difficult at this time to write a new thing on either the Hudson river, the Niagara Falls, or even the Grand Canal. Indeed, through the medium of books of travels, tours, sketches, diaries, and the like, almost every nook and corner of the United States, within the reach of stage-coaches, steamboats, or even pedestrian enterprise, has become familiar to every reader. For this reason, we were somewhat surprised to find Mr M'Kenney's 'Tour to the Lakes' beginning at Baltimore, or, rather, at Washington, and could persuade ourselves to give the first hundred and more pages only a cursory glance. Passing sketches of our maritime cities can excite little interest; and while we regard the pride and delight with which the author moves up the New York Canal, as natural and honorable feelings, and should have questioned his taste and sensibility, if he had viewed the Niagara Falls with less wonder and enthusiasm; nevertheless, we think no graphic powers, of either the pen or the pencil, could give any of these topics the charm of novelty, or even of ordinary interest. We have standard descriptions of all these wonders of nature and of art, under their present aspects; and until they exhibit new features, inquirers may safely be left to existing authorities for information.

Mr M'Kenney embarked at Buffalo for Detroit in a steam-boat, which then plied between the two places in conjunction with six or seven others. In 1820, Mr Schoolcraft, who then made a tour of the lakes, found only one steamboat on Lake Erie. In his letter dated from Detroit, Mr M'Kenney, like every preceding traveller, is led to speak of the distinguished Indian, Pontiac, whose exploits have given something like classic celebrity to the grounds around that place. There is much that is attractive in the history of this champion of the forest; and as we understand there are extant some manuscripts written contemporaneously with the events connected with his name, we may anticipate a further illustration of his character and wars. Mr M'Kenney has added little to the facts stated by Mr Schoolcraft; who, in his turn, copied them with due credit from Carver.

Nothing worthy of particular note occurs during the boat voyage from Detroit to the Sault de Ste Marie. We are struck, however, with some surprise to find, that our traveller met with a British garrison at Drummond's Island. We had supposed this island to have been determined, several years since, to belong to the United States, and that the British had evacuated the post upon it. In a military point of view, its occupation may perhaps be regarded with indifference; but there are other considerations, which would seem to render it highly objectionable. Sovereignty should be intangible to a foreign power; and there is a proof upon the Champlain frontier of the readiness with which we abandon a military position, when determined to appertain to another nation.

Mr M'Kenney says, that as many as three thousand Indians had been recently at Drummond's Island, in order to receive presents. Most of these Indians were, we presume, from within the boundary of the United States. We are utterly at a loss for reasons to account for this perseverance, on the part of the British Indian Department, in the present-giving system, so far as it relates to Indians within our jurisdiction. We are unwilling to impute it to the *only* motive which strikes our apprehension,—a wish to preserve a claim to services, in the event of another war, which were so useful in the last war,—for we hope such a contingency is too remote, to be the basis of any such policy. It is known that strong representations have been made by the local authorities to the government, setting forth the injurious consequences that may result from such an interference

with our internal concerns. To ensure that tranquillity, which it is the aim of the United States to perpetuate among the Indians, it is all important, it is indispensable, that their association should be confined, in all respects, to those who, so far from having any interest to counteract such beneficent intentions, will cooperate to give them the fullest effect. We believe we are not mistaken in saying, that there has been a diplomatic correspondence between the two countries on this subject, and that the British authorities averred ignorance of any such intercourse. Whether it exists with or without the authority of the British government, the fact of its existence, to an alarming extent, is unquestionable.

While at Drummond's Island, Mr M'Kenney witnessed the interesting spectacle of an assembly of Indians, engaged in religious worship, and heard them sing an Indian hymn, which had been adapted to music. At the same place he had an opportunity of observing another kind of devotion, which we are led to believe is almost as rare among the savages, as enthusiasm in religion. The habitual indifference with which they treat their wives, the unfeeling inequality with which they distribute the burdens and labors of life, reversing the ordinary scale of relative weakness, and making the females, as it were, the stronger sex, lead us to suppose them unsusceptible of all sentiments of love. But whatever want of tenderness or gallantry the Indian females may be accustomed to after their marriage, when, according to savage nations, they become the slave of man, and the services exacted of them are submitted to as an inevitable lot, and claim only support and protection in return; there is no doubt that the maiden of the forest has her season of coquetry and triumph, in which she is propitiated with those sylvan blandishments, which, however far they may be behind the courtly wooings of polished life in delicacy and refinement, as decidedly show the temporary ascendancy of the sex. Mr M'Kenney says he found a young Indian, one soft and bright moonshiny evening,—just 'such a night' as Jessica's lover might have chosen,—seated in front of his mistress' cabin, serenading her with a 'three-holed flute,' in which melodious occupation he passed the whole night. This simple instrument, whose compass is confined to three notes, appears to be consecrated to love, for we believe it is resorted to only during a paroxysm of that passion.

Since the time when Mr Schoolcraft visited the Sault de Ste

Marie, in 1820, a military post had been established at that place, forming the terminating point in that quarter of a cordon of posts, which not long ago extended from Detroit to this place. The copper found in the neighborhood of the Sault, appears early to have attracted the notice of the French missionaries; for Charlevoix says that one of them, who had been bred a goldsmith, had made chandeliers, crosses, and censers of that metal. The whitefish is caught there in great abundance and of a delicious quality. The salmon-trout likewise abounds in Lake Huron. It is often found weighing over forty pounds, still retaining most of the peculiar flavor belonging to that species of fish. Mr M'Kenney gives a very lively description of the mode of taking whitefish in the rapids, which we are tempted to extract.

'The whitefish is taken by both whites and Indians with a scoop-net, which is fastened to a pole about ten feet long. Two persons go out in a bark canoe, that you could take in your hand like a basket; and in the midst of the rapids, or rather where they pitch and foam the most. One sits near the stern, and paddles; the other stands in the bow, and with the dexterity of a wire-dancer, balances his "egg-shell," that you or I would be ready to turn over in our attempts to keep steady. When a fish is seen through the water, which is clear as crystal, the place is indicated by the man with the net, when, by a dexterous and quick motion of the paddle, by the Indian holding it, he shoots the canoe to the spot, or within reach of it, when the net is thrown over the fish, and it is scooped up, and thrown into the canoe; meantime the eye of the person in the stern is kept steadily fixed upon the breakers, and the eddy, and whirl, and fury of the current; and the little frail bark is shot away in a smoother place, or kept stationary by the motion of that single paddle, as circumstances may require.'

Maple sugar is manufactured in considerable quantities at the Sault, many families making, according to Mr M'Kenney, more than a ton weight in a season. Furs are not abundant. Potatoes and oats are cultivated with success, and some garden vegetables. But the winters are tediously long, and the cold severe. The snow falls to a great depth, and remains on the ground about seven months in a year. It is not, however, without its appropriate amusements. *Trains*, drawn by dogs, are the common vehicles of pleasure, and, according to Mr M'Kenney, afford some conveniences, for which the more cumbrous equipages of other climes are but ill adapted. When

a visit, or other excursion is intended, the train is drawn into the house, and, before a comfortable fire, the lady arranges herself among the robes of fur, and goes forth. It is not so stated, but we should hope that custom allows the lady to maintain her seat in this train, until she can alight on the hearth of a friend. These dogs are large, with thick necks and broad shoulders, as if fitted by nature for the draft for which they are so generally employed.\*

While Mr M'Kenney was at the Sault, he had an opportunity of seeing an Indian dance. The ball began at eight o'clock in the evening, and ended with the rising of the sun the next morning. It terminated with a feast, which was served up in two 'six gallon kettles.' Dancing appears to be one of the chief amusements belonging to the savage life. Every Indian, of either sex, who is not incapacitated by some bodily defect or infirmity, seems to have acquired this accomplishment, the cultivation of which begins with their earliest years. The ordinary dances, which have no great variety of movement, are danced by all; but there are others of a higher character, which require a muscular power, and a capability of enduring fatigue, which render them generally unattainable. The *Buffalo dance*, which is performed with a buffalo scalp (that is, the skin of that animal, taken from the top of the head, including the horns, and a part of the neck) on the head, often in the bright sun of a summer's day, and mostly in a crouching attitude, is probably as severe a trial of the physical strength, as any exercise within the range of the gymnasium.

On the tenth of June, 1826, the party embarked in three barges, and one bark canoe, and left the Sault for Lake Superior. This is the third expedition which Governor Cass has conducted into the remote regions of the northwest, for purposes almost solely connected with the future welfare of the Indians scattered over that immense tract of country. His zeal and activity have been rewarded by the most complete

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\* In the winter of 1819-20, two gentlemen came from Lord Selkirk's establishment, on the Red River, to Prairie du Chien, on the Mississippi, a distance of several hundred miles, each drawn in a train by two or three dogs. The party returned to Red River in the spring in boats, and most of the dogs were consequently left behind. As soon as they saw that they were abandoned by their old masters, each dog selected a house in the village, and by an obstinate maintenance of his post, and a faithful guardianship of the premises, compelled the occupant to adopt him as a part of the establishment.

success; and the great scheme of meliorating the condition of the sons of the forest, by establishing boundaries, and allaying ancient feuds, will probably be indebted for its consummation more to his agency, than to that of any other individual. As we shall hereafter have occasion to speak of the treaty, we will now make no reference to the objects of the expedition. Mr M'Kenney went in the bark canoe; and we cannot give a better idea of the buoyancy and capacity of this beautiful craft, so common in the northwestern waters, than by stating the fact, that this canoe, which was thirty feet long, four feet in the beam, and two and a half feet deep in the centre, and could be raised out of the water by two of its crew, carried eleven men, with their baggage, weighing in all about two thousand pounds.

The entrance into Lake Superior appears to have made the same impression on Mr M'Kenney as on all preceding travellers. The scenery has a grandeur suited to the *embouchure* of the 'Father of Lakes,'—elevated peaks and precipitous bluffs, that give boldness to the outline of the waters, and leave the imagination to indulge in theories of 'elemental war.' *Point Iroquois* has likewise a moral interest, deriving its name from a bloody Indian fight, which has given it a traditional celebrity through more than a century.

On the second day after their entrance into the lake, the party encountered a severe *blow*, one of those almost cloudless tempests, which, in the face of a bright sun, chafe the lake into a fury, that one would expect to see only under the influence of a black and stormy heaven. The rage of the winds on these lakes, at certain seasons, is vehement in the extreme. But, according to M. Charlevoix, the element gives a kindly premonition, which the voyager neglects to notice at his peril, and which, if the fact be as it is stated, affords ample time for measures of precaution. Charlevoix says a coming tempest may be told on Lake Superior three days in advance; the first day exhibiting a light ripple; the second, tolerably large waves, but without crests; but the third day, 'le lac est tout en feu; l'océan, dans le plus grand fureur, n'est pas plus agité.' We somewhat distrust the certainty of these signs, and suspect the irregular turbulence of Lake Superior, as well as of all the other lakes, baffles all weatherwise calculations.

The first days of the voyage appear to have been barren of incident. The shore of the lake was low and monotonous, and on the fourth day, even animate nature seems to have been

scattered along their route with singular sparingness, and want of variety; for our traveller says in his notes on that day, 'I have not seen a living thing today (exclusive of our party), except two crows, a spider, and one ant, always excepting musquitoes.'

It would be impossible for a traveller to pass up the south side of Lake Superior, and not notice the *Grandes Sables*, and the *Pictured Rocks*, the two most striking features of the lake. They have both been slightly noticed in our review of Mr Schoolcraft's Narrative Journal.\* This gentleman, in his 'Mineralogical Report' to the Secretary of War, in 1822, gives the following scientific view of this magnificent scene.

'The *Pictured Rocks* commence three leagues beyond La Pointe des *Grandes Sables*, and extend along a very irregularly indented shore to the western curve of Grand Isle Bay, a distance of eighteen miles, when the further view of them is intercepted by a point of woodland extending into the lake. They consist of a formation of sandstone, which is in some respects peculiar, on account of its composition, its color, its extreme friability, and the great thickness it presents to view. It is composed of coarse grains of siliceous sand united by a calcareous cement, and deposited *stratum-super-stratum*, to the computed height of three hundred feet; forming a mural precipice along the margin of the lake. In some places we observe imbedded pebbles of quartz, and water-worn fragments of other primary rocks; but the attraction of aggregation appears to be very feeble, and where the strata are exposed to the influence of the weather and the lake, they are rapidly submitting to decay, and the fragments are easily crushed between the fingers. Its recent fracture presents a light grey color, which is uniformly diffused, but externally the rock is black, red, green, yellow, brown, white, producing a diversified and pictured appearance, to which this singular range of bluffs is indebted for its name. In no place, however, does the recent fracture disclose any traces of the red color predominant in the Superior sandstone; and the variety of outward coloring appears to be attributable chiefly to the washing down of the banks of colored clays and loam, which form the superincumbent soil. In reference to their color and position, however, we may suppose that the Pictured Rocks are a second deposit of the same formation and series upon which they rest. Traces of such a deposit are furnished by several parts of the Superior shore; but as it is much more perishable in its structure, it appears to have first

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\* North American Review, vol. xv. p. 224, for July, 1822.



yielded to decomposition; and hence probably the origin of *Les Grandes Sables*, and of those numerous and extensive sandy tracts, of which *Whitefish Point*, the plains of *Ontonagon*, and *Point Chegoimegon*, afford conspicuous instances.'

These stupendous battlements of rock, from the account of all travellers, offer to the eye a scene of variety and sublimity, which it is impossible to view without delight and enthusiasm, notwithstanding the idea that must constantly be present to the spectator's mind, that he is purchasing his enjoyment at considerable hazard. They cannot be viewed to advantage, except while floating along their front; and the suddenness with which such a wind, as would render the situation dangerous, springs up on this lake, dashes the pleasure with a strong alloy. Mr *McKenney* appears to have verified how nearly the pleasure and the peril are allied. Having delayed somewhat behind his party, in order to take a minuter survey, his bark, while he was yet at no great distance from the beetling heights, encountered a freshening wind, that soon disturbed the waters sufficiently to make him and his companions feel a most unpleasant sense of jeopardy.

While at *Grand Isle*, our author heard repeated the story of the *Chippeway* war party, which Mr *Schoolcraft* relates as a recent incident, when he first visited that island with Governor *Cass*. It affords a strong illustration of the bravery and devotion of the Indian character, when excited by powerful motives. Indeed, instances of martyrlike sacrifice of life, which are so rare in the annals of other nations, are not uncommon among the Indian tribes. We have not space to extract the story, but we cannot forbear presenting the main incidents of it. The *Chippeways* of this part of the country appear to have incurred the reproach of cowardly inactivity in recent hostilities with the *Sioux*. To efface this, thirteen warriors made an irruption into the *Sioux* territory. They suddenly and unexpectedly met a war party of the enemy, of ten times their number. As efforts were then making to restore harmony between the two nations, the *Sioux* were willing to receive this little band as friends. But the *Chippeways* were resolved on a fight, and made preparations for an attack the next morning. They were easily repulsed, when, retiring to some rude intrenchments, which had previously been dug, they were all killed, excepting one, after having destroyed twice their number of the enemy. This survivor, being the youngest warrior, had been directed to

take his stand on a neighboring height, whence he could view the result, and, as soon as he saw their fate, to return with the account to their friends.

On the seventeenth of July, our party arrived at *Granite Point*. The back country here begins to be lifted into high hills and mountains. Mr Schoolcraft named this point *Granite Point*, because the geological character of the shore here changes to rocks of that class, a granite bluff of two hundred feet in height rising at this place out of the lake, connected with the main by a neck of 'red and grey sandstone, in horizontal layers.' Mr M'Kenney gives the following animated description of his clambering to the extremity of this point.

'Descending from rock to rock for about thirty feet, I seated myself on a ledge that projected far out into the lake, to survey the scenery, and contemplate the motion of the waters, that in towering waves would roll against these rocks as if asleep, and unconscious of their approaching destiny till awakened by the shock of the contact, when they would mount high in the air, and fall back broken into a thousand parts, and be swallowed up by their successors, which, on reaching the same point, met with the same overthrow. I had been observing these waves for some minutes, when a mother duck with her brood of younglings, ten or twelve in number, and which appeared to be only a few days old, swam out from behind a projection of a rock, where the water was comparatively still. She was, on seeing me, greatly alarmed, and with both feet and wings made her way into the lake, and, on getting ahead of her brood, would turn back and flap her wings on the water, and then away again, till presently I saw her as she would mount over the top of the wave, and her little family looking like small corks on the billows.'

We make this extract, as presenting a pleasing view of lake scenery, and as answering the inquiry so frequently suggested by a sight of the migratory flocks, that, through 'the desert and illimitable air,' wing their way northward each season,—What region brings their long and lofty pilgrimage to a close?

There are clusters of islands rising out of the lake in the neighborhood of this point, which the author supposes may once have formed an elongation of the point. Such a supposition finds countenance in the geological character of the neck of *Granite Point*, uniting it with the main, which, according to Mr Schoolcraft, is sandy alluvion, covering a friable sandstone, which is incapable of withstanding the action of the waters, like its associate masses of granite, and which will doubtless one day wear away, and leave the present extremity of the point an island.

When Mr Schoolcraft passed up Lake Superior in 1820, the party made the usual *portage* at the neck of *Keweena Point*, and, of course, saw little of this extraordinary projection of land into Lake Superior. As Governor Cass' party at this time made the circuit of the point, Mr M'Kenney had an opportunity of examining its features. He describes the shore as being for more than two thirds of its length 'uninteresting and monotonous,' and as almost upon a level with the lake, and covered to the water's edge with a growth of pine, cedar, aspen, spruce, &c. Two high, conical mountains are seen rising from the interior. Towards the termination of the point, its character changes to 'rocky and broken precipices'

'The shores are cut into little bays of from a hundred feet to a quarter of a mile, into many of which we entered, while the rocky projections of the mountain hung over us as if to threaten us with destruction. Huge masses of rocks, that had parted from the mountain, were lying out in the lake, some fifty and a hundred yards from the shore, between which and others that formed a kind of passage way, and with perpendicular walls, our little bark was passed on the smooth surface of the waters. It was like a mite in comparison with these ruptured and stupendous fragments.'

Nature has adorned this remote and unfrequented point with cascades, and with green and lovely recesses, in one of which Mr M'Kenney says he found that rare plant, which botanists and poets have so long sought for in vain, 'the rose without a thorn.' This point is said to have been first coasted around about forty years ago. Common canoes and barks can be easily taken across the portage, but the barges of the present party, and boats of that size, are obliged to make the circuit. It is fortyfive miles long. The Indians have a tradition, that a party, in passing around Keweena Point, and approaching Beaver Island, which is off the point, were frightened back by a female, whose form expanded to a most appalling size; and that since that time, no savage has ever trespassed upon the interdicted region. It would seem to require nothing more than the length of this rather perilous circuit, and the facility with which the Indians can carry over the portage their small craft, to restrain them from this circumnavigation; but the Beavers appear to have profited by this superstitious or accidental desertion of the point, as they are said to have been found in extraordinary abundance on the island bearing their

name, by the first white man who dared to invade the phantom-protected waters.

On arriving off the Ontonagon river, the party had a view of the Porcupine mountains, far in the interior, which were estimated by Captain Douglas to be about two thousand feet high. During the same day, Mr M'Kenney visited an Indian hamlet, and entered one of the lodges which belonged to a Frenchman, who had married a squaw. This lodge is stated to have been twelve feet in diameter, and to have contained, at the time he visited it, the mistress, five children, several squaws, an old chief, a crow, and six dogs. Our readers, who are accustomed to the elbow-room of spacious houses, will hardly imagine how so many persons could voluntarily crowd within so small a space; and this lodge probably afforded the best accommodations of all in the hamlet. The old chief who was present, said, 'he had been for the last ten days living upon wild garlic.'

St Michael's Island, which is about four hundred and twenty miles up the lake, was the seat of a French mission more than a century ago. The cross was erected there, and no doubt many a red neophyte rewarded the zeal of the priests. No vestige now remains of the labors of these bold and persevering pioneers of christianity. Perhaps few efforts, which have cost so much privation, suffering, and death, have been so fruitless in permanent effects, as the labors of these early missionaries. At the time we allude to, a religious establishment so far distant as St Michael's Island, was as arduous and hazardous an enterprise, as a similar one at the present day beyond the Rocky Mountains. A priest, once in a year or two, passes up from Montreal to Fond du Lac, on a spiritual visitation of the stationary traders, and of the few Indians who still preserve a shadowy connexion with the church.

A Mr Johnson, of the lake country, informed Mr M'Kenney, that in 1791, he had here met with a scientific Frenchman, or Italian, who called himself *Count Andriani*, and who was making observations, with instruments, upon the latitude, &c. This casual mention of his name, appears to be, so far as our knowledge extends, the only glimpse of notoriety on this side the Atlantic, which has rewarded the enterprise of this scientific count.

In passing onward the party met several Indians on the shore, who were in a starving condition. One of them, who said he had eaten nothing for two days, begged for tobacco the first

thing. To endure hunger appears to be habitual with the Indians, particularly with those of the northern regions, but even while they are sinking under atrophy, the love of whiskey or tobacco still predominates over all other cravings.

The party reached Fond du Lac on the twentyeighth of July, after a voyage of eighteen days, the distance being five hundred and twenty-nine miles. Governor Cass remained at that place until the ninth of August, to effect the treaty, which he, in conjunction with Mr M'Kenney, had been commissioned to form with the Indians assembled, agreeably to a convocation, for that purpose. It will be recollected that Governor Cass, in conjunction with General Clark, of Missouri, had met several tribes of Indians at Prairie du Chien the year before, to establish the boundaries between the various contiguous tribes, and settle a general pacification among them. As these objects could not be fully attained at that time and place, this second council was appointed, with a view to accommodate such tribes as were too remote for attendance at Prairie du Chien. The author has appended to his work all the speeches and papers connected with the council. The beneficial results are matters of publicity. The supplemental article to the treaty, shows that a new subject of negotiation had arisen since the last council. A murder of a party of whites upon Lake Pepin had been committed by the Chippeways, and the murderers were to be demanded at Fond du Lac. As these persons were not present, all that could be effected then was, a promise to have them forthcoming the ensuing year at Green Bay, where another council would convene under the direction of the same commissioners, for this and other objects connected with the welfare of the Indians.\*

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\* An instance of the integrity with which they fulfil such promises occurred at Prairie du Chien in 1819. During the summer of that year, two soldiers were murdered and shockingly mangled in the neighborhood of Fort Armstrong, on the Mississippi. As circumstances rendered it almost certain that some Winebagoes were the murderers, that tribe was immediately summoned to give them up. The chiefs at once promised to bring them to Prairie du Chien within a stated time, and they were brought accordingly, preceded by a white flag, and attended by a large concourse of the tribe.

They were taken into military custody, and the next morning examined separately before three magistrates of the place, in the presence of several Winebago chiefs. The youngest of the three (for that was the number given up) was first examined. He said he was the adopted child of an uncle, with whom, and an elder brother, he

During the author's stay at Fond du Lac, he observed many things, and collected some traditions and stories, which throw new light on the Indian character and condition. It is not surprising, that a simple and suffering people, like the Indians, should be inclined to superstition. Mr M'Kenney relates anecdotes strikingly illustrative of this weakness. Soon after their arrival, an emaciated and squalid looking Indian presented himself, and was recognised as the guide who had undertaken, in 1820, to lead Governor Cass to the *Copper Rock*. He had the ill luck to lose his way in this instance, which was considered by his brethren as an evidence of the anger of the Great Spirit, who viewed all such intrusions upon the riches of his kingdom with jealous eyes ; and this accident, together with his subsequent ill success in hunting, created a belief with his tribe, and at last with himself, that he had been abandoned by his Manitto. He was in the last stage of despair at this time. It was judiciously determined, that the best method of restoring him to self respect, and to the respect of his tribe, would be, to improve his condition by presents, and thus give one of the strongest proofs that good fortune had returned to him. The result showed that the method was successful.

Our traveller acquaints us with a singular kind of posthumous *husbandship*, of which we do not recollect to have seen any previous mention. He says many squaws were observed, who constantly carried a 'roll of clothing' about with them, which

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had gone to Rock Island, on which Fort Armstrong stands. While they were in the bushes near the fort, they saw two soldiers approach them in order to cut poles. While they were thus engaged, his uncle told him and his brother, that some time before, a relation of theirs had been murdered by the whites, and that now was a proper time to avenge the deed, by killing these two soldiers, who were unarmed and in their power. He said he tried to dissuade his uncle from the act, but finding him inflexible, he stood by, while the deed was committed, neither assisting nor opposing. He added, that his elder brother had likewise tried to dissuade his uncle, but, when he found him determined, had assisted in the murder. The elder brother was then examined, who confirmed, in all respects, the testimony of the younger, acquitting him entirely of all blame, excepting that of having been a passive spectator. He assumed a portion of the guilt himself, but referred all the responsibility of the act to his uncle. The uncle was then called, who confirmed the statements of his two nephews ; saying, that he believed the whites to have killed his relation, and that he had been bound in duty to retaliate. The younger brother was immediately discharged ; the other two were afterwards tried, and found guilty.

they appeared to preserve with much care. On inquiry, he found they were widows, and that these rolls were emblems of their bereavement, and of the continuance of their mourning. 'It is indispensable, when a woman loses her husband, for her to take off her best apparel, and roll it up, and confine it by means of her husband's sashes; and if he had ornaments, these are generally put on the top of the roll, and around is wrapped a piece of cloth. This bundle is called *her husband*,' and must be her inseparable companion, until taken away by some one of her late husband's family, which is not generally done until after the lapse of a year. We can see no great hardship in exacting such a season of mourning on such occasions; at least it is not going beyond what is required in more civilized life, without, however, annexing to it such an inconvenient badge of grief. But it appears, that inexorable relations sometimes leave these widows several years with this miserable substitute. It is not, however, without its advantages. Whenever presents are distributed, this cylindrical husband comes in, with all the fulness of the marital character, for its equal share, which, of course, goes to the disconsolate widow.

Another custom of the Chippeway women is mentioned, which exhibits their maternal affection in a strong light. When a Chippeway mother loses her child, she dresses an effigy, which takes its place in the cradle, and becomes, during a year, the unconscious object of every maternal kindness and attention.

During his stay at Fond du Lac, Mr M'Kenney frequently visited a young female Indian, who was suffering under a severe disease, which he considered *hemiplegia*. One half of her body had been paralyzed, and the optic nerves so affected as to render her blind. Her countenance was handsome and interesting. Perhaps no description of their poverty and wretchedness could give us such a vivid idea of the comfortless condition of the savages, as this picture of suffering and sickness, deprived of all those remedial and soothing appliances, which mitigate the pains of disease in civilized life. Here we find an interesting girl of sixteen, prostrated by one of the severest visitations of Providence, raised from the bare earth only by a thin rush mat, and having no other nourishment offered to her sickly appetite, than 'pork and flour soup;' and even this dainty probably became attainable through the accidental occurrence of the treaty at that place. The parents were unremitting in their attention to their sick child, but apparently with a con-

sciousness that they could only watch the progress of disease, without any power to check its force. The *materia medica* among the Indians is extremely limited, and where nature and superstitious incantations fail to effect a cure, the patients generally find no relief, but are surrendered with hopeless submission to their fate.

The council at Fond du Lac exhibited the somewhat novel spectacle of a female, who took her seat in it as proxy of her husband. It may be worthy of remark, that she made a short and pertinent speech. Mr M'Kenney confirms the often repeated assertion, that there are 'man-women' among the savages. He mentions one who had been induced by a dream, or some such accident, to assume the dress and duties of a squaw, and had even gone through the ceremony of being married to a man.

The Indians call the aurora borealis 'dancing spirits,' which is both a beautiful and poetical appellation.

The party left Fond du Lac, on its return, the ninth of August, having sent forward a detachment to the river Ontonagon, for the purpose of endeavoring to move the 'copper rock,' with a view to transport it to Washington. It appears by the report of the person having charge of the detachment, that the shallowness of the river rendered such a scheme impracticable. They built a fire on the rock, in order to facilitate a separation of it into portable fragments, but without success; and this famous *rock* will still remain on its old ground, to puzzle geologists, and perhaps lead to new mining speculations. And there let it stand in its native form and dimensions, till the art of man can devise means of removing it, without fracturing it into parts, and thereby destroying the chief qualities, which make it a wonder of nature.

On his return, Mr M'Kenney had an opportunity of seeing the *Pictured Rocks* to better advantage, than when ascending the lake. 'The relic of Indian pottery,' as it is termed, is a curious exhibition of the manner in which conflicting elements sometimes strike out an imitation of the most elaborate works of art. It resembles a vase in form, having a stem about five feet high, and a body twelve feet, with well proportioned dimensions in other respects. Some fir trees, which grow out of the top, form an ornament well suited to the vase. The *urn* and *monument* are still more singular and wonderful exhibitions of the same kind, particularly the first, which is described



as being about sixty feet high, and with 'exact proportions.' All these are adjunct features of the 'Pictured Rocks,' which he now approached at a point, or projection, bearing the name of the 'Castle Rock.' The outstanding mass is three hundred feet high, and one hundred and fifty feet wide, with an opening or cavern at its base about forty feet broad. When within fifty yards of this cavern, on looking up, he found himself under 'the drop from the edges above.' Notwithstanding this threatening aspect, he entered the opening, and discovered within 'a circular passage, which winds into the body of the rock, with a roof of thirty feet, supported on pillars, averaging twelve inches in diameter.' Near the cave rock lies an immense mass of ruins, which show that these overhanging precipices occasionally descend into the lake beneath.

The party reached the Sault de Ste Marie in safety. The author here collected two Indian allegories, which show that the savages have fancies skilled in happy personifications. We have not room for further extracts.

Mr M'Kenney estimates the number of Indians on Lake Superior to be about eight thousand, and says that they bring in furs to the amount of about twentyfive thousand dollars. This leaves but a small dividend to each individual, in a country where hunting forms an important source of subsistence. There is no doubt the Indians in this quarter suffer privations, greater than fall to the lot of most of those who reside within our jurisdiction. The earth is niggardly in its spontaneous productions, and the shortness of the season holds out little inducement to the indolent habits of the Indians, to seek food by the sweat of the brow. . The lake affords a supply of fish during a part of the year, but for many months this source of supply is cut off by the rigors of winter. Mr M'Kenney indulges a kind and generous hope, that the condition of these Indians may be meliorated. Such a hope must find a concurrent sentiment in every breast; but we fear there is little practical encouragement for any scheme of this nature, unless they be regarded as national paupers, and supported accordingly. They are cast on a sterile shore, which the industry of even white men could hardly cause to bring forth an increase. But their privations spring from their birthright, and they suffer as their fathers have suffered before them. If they have not heretofore been induced, by the repulsive sterility of their native soil, and the ease with which they can change their ambulatory homes.

to seek out a more genial and abundant clime ; we apprehend that the government could offer no sufficient inducement to such an emigration. Some instances, which may be taking place among the Southern Indians, are no proof in point. Crowded, threatened, and persecuted, the Creeks may be said to have no choice. But we must leave a subject which presses upon us a thousand reflections.

The commissioners, on their return, visited the island of Michillimackinac, and some striking sketches are given of its wild and singular features. Excepting the Pictured Rocks, this island is undoubtedly the most attractive object in the country of the lakes. It is about three miles in diameter, and, in the vicinity of the main and other islands, bearing little similarity of character, rises out of the lake, with a rampart-like shore on almost every side, of about an hundred and fifty feet in height, and gradually ascends from the edge of this precipice to the centre, where it terminates in a cone, whose peak is about three hundred feet from the water level. This acclivity is mostly covered with trees. As this island stands in the strait connecting Lakes Huron and Michigan, the great thoroughfare of the lakes, it has always had great notoriety among the aborigines, and, striking on their fanciful eyes with its peculiarity of form, appears to have been immemorially the object of their admiration and worship. As the observer approaches it from Lake Huron, and finds the minuter features of the island gradually unfolding to his view, the first that strikes his eye is the military blockhouse upon the summit, whose square outline rests on the sky ; following down the slope, the eye is next attracted by Fort Mackina, whose whitened walls stand on the brink of the precipitous bank, overhanging the little bay immediately beneath, around whose shores, upon a level with the lake, is collected the village of Mackina. These three objects mark distinctly the three gradations of the island. We have not space for much more than a simple enumeration of the remarkable objects which have engaged the attention of our traveller. The *Arched Rock*, or *Giant's Arch*, as Mr Schoolcraft terms it, is described as being singular and picturesque in the highest degree. In comparison with the *Natural Bridge* in Virginia, this arch may in many respects have the advantage. The Natural Bridge presents few appearances of convulsion or ruins. It seems to have been formed by a silent and gradual process of elemental dissolution, and,

standing 'fixed in its own tranquillity,' strikes the cursory observer as some rude achievement of art. But the Arched Rock at Mackina strides over a slope of massy fragments, that spread down the bank in such wild disorder, as to refer its origin at once to some uncommon disturbance of nature; while the apparently slight adhesion of the different parts of the arch excite a wonder that it should so long have balanced itself in the upper air. Mr Schoolcraft, in his Narrative Journal, says, 'Its abutments are the calcareous rock common to the island, and have been created by the falling down of enormous masses of rock, leaving a chasm of eighty or ninety feet in height, and crowned with an arch of fifty or sixty feet sweep, having the usual curve of factitious arches.'

The *Sugar Loaf Rock* is a natural cone of about thirty feet diameter at its base, and between eighty and ninety feet high, its general outline resembling the usual shape of a sugar loaf. A few stunted trees grow out of the crevices in its sides. The *Scull Rock* is another lofty and insulated mass, having a cavern at its base, which has become interesting by many traditions. A great quantity of human bones have been found in this cavern, the deposit of which in such a place, not being satisfactorily accounted for by the generally known customs of the savages, has been the subject of some speculation.

But we must close these remarks. Although Mr Schoolcraft's journal through Lake Superior was still fresh in our memory, and we could hardly expect any thing new in a tour over the same route, saving personal adventures, yet we followed Mr M'Kenney from the Sault de Ste Marie to the Fond du Lac, finding ourselves entertained with many lively descriptions of scenery and many well told anecdotes relating to Indian manners and modes of thought. His friend and correspondent requested him 'to set down every thing.' However acceptable to the partial eye of such a person a literal fulfilment of this request might be, we cannot but think, that, when these extemporaneous and desultory notes were about to be submitted to the public, much pruning and condensation would have been judicious. Mr M'Kenney was generally known to have been some time connected with the Indian Department, and to have made this tour in the capacity of commissioner to treat with the Indians, and the public perhaps naturally expected that his book would contain more new and substantial information on subjects connected with them. A liberal, benevolent, and

gentlemanly feeling prevails throughout the work, and we know of no tourist who appears to have moved along in better humor with every thing around him.

If we objected to the first hundred and more pages, as being a redundancy in a tour like this, we cannot but regard the last thirty or forty as being still more liable to the same objection. No charm of writing, or ingenuity of thought, could infuse an interest into such a twice told tale.

ART. V.—*Servian Popular Poetry*, translated by JOHN BOWRING. London. 1827. 12mo. pp. 235.

IF we run our eyes over the map of European Turkey, we shall discover in its northwestern borders a small province called Servia, laved on the north by the waters of ‘the dark rolling Danube,’ and on the south separated from Albania and Macedonia by ridges of lofty mountains. History has recorded little to acquaint us with the origin, government, and character of the inhabitants of Servia. Gibbon leaves them, as he had found them, nearly in the dark, and comforts his readers with observing, that the country which they inhabit is one of the most hidden regions of Europe. Mr Bowring has searched, with some success, for facts to illustrate the history and condition of the people, whose charming poetry he has clothed in an English dress with so much spirit and apparent truth. These facts are derived from the highest sources, but they are scanty, and no pretension is made to a continued narrative.

The author carries us not back beyond the middle of the seventh century, at which period certain tribes of Slavonians began to spread themselves along the Danube and Sava, who, in process of time, became distinctly marked out into six kingdoms, four of which, that is, Servia, Bosnia, Slavonia, and Dalmatia, were comprised under the sonorous name of *Srb*. Their early history is yet a study for the antiquarian; the learned even disagree as to the meaning of this cognomen; some derive it from *Srp*, a sickle, but wherefore a sickle is not told; some would trace it to the Latin *servus*; and some refer it to other sources; but Dobrowsky declares, after